WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for cutting a sheet-shaped material, comprising the steps of:

(a) measuring, immediately before cutting a sheet-shaped material heated, temperature of the sheet-shaped material;

(b) determining expansion of the sheet-shaped material based on said temperature thus detected and a room temperature; and

(c) cutting the sheet-shaped material in anticipation of said expansion thus determined.

2. The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said step (a) comprises measuring the temperature of portions of the sheet shaped-material, which correspond to a plurality of prescribed cutting lines along which the sheet-shaped material is to be cut;

said step (b) comprises determining expansion of each of said portions of the sheet-shaped material; and

said step (c) comprises cutting the sheet-shaped material along said prescribed cutting lines in anticipation of said expansion of each of said portions of the sheet-shaped material.

3. An apparatus for cutting a sheet-shaped material, comprising:

a cutting unit having a pair of blades;

a temperature sensor for measuring temperature of a sheet-shaped material heated;

a computing unit for calculating expansion of the sheet-shaped material based on said temperature measured by said temperature sensor and a room temperature to output a signal; and

a supply unit for supplying the sheet-shaped material into said

cutting unit based on said signal from said computing unit.

4. The apparatus as claimed in Claim 3, wherein:

said temperature sensor has a function of measuring the temperature of portions of the sheet shaped-material, which correspond to a plurality of prescribed cutting lines along which the sheet-shaped material is to be cut;

said computing unit has a function of determining expansion of each of said portions of the sheet-shaped material to output signals for said portions; and

said supply unit has a function of supplying the sheet-shaped material into said cutting unit based on said signals for said portions from said computing unit.

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